

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY MARCH 4, 2016
MEETING MINUTES**

Members present:

Denise Moore, Carly Shaw, Nancy Magnall, Jim Hennessey, Wendy Rickman, Jake Carmi, Jerry Foxhoven, Gail Barber, Rep. Marti Anderson, Jennifer Sievert, George Belitsos, Julie Heiderscheit-phone & Jean McAleer-phone

Members absent:

Chris Secrist, Julie Mann Phillips, Sen. Amy Sinclair, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Rep. Rob Taylor, Charles Palmer & Sen. Dennis Guth, Anne Gruenewald

Visitors:

Kara Lynn Regula-Department of Human Services
Angel Banks-Adams-LSA

Meeting called to order 1:14 pm

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the 12-11-16 meeting approved as written

Report on AMP:

Jake gave an update from AMP: AMP camp will be held July 16th thru July 23rd in Boone at the "Y" camp. They will also hold a conference on April 16th and the conference has been coordinated with Indian Hills Community College. They will celebrate and honor George Belitsos. They will also be trying to get kids excited about going to college by offering classes on robotics and so forth.

AMP will be doing a promotional video, filming will be done on March 22, 2016 in Des Moines, and then they will also go to other areas of the state.

There is legislation to drop the adoption appeal timeframe from 30 days to 15 days Jake said that AMP is in favor of this.

Eldora boys reported during the Juvenile Justice meeting that the phone prices to call home have gone up to \$12.00 for 30 minutes and they did drop to \$3.30 for 30 minutes. George B. said that this group of boys is the first group that they have allowed to attend.

Report on Child and Family Services:

Kara Regula gave a brief background of the CFSR. The CFSR is a federal requirement as a part of our quality assurance system for Child Welfare that we conduct case reviews. We are using case reviews and an onsite review tool. The process we are

currently using have a supervisor and a quality assistance staff working together to review cases, and are reviewing approximately 150 cases per year. The report has data for 2 quarters so when looking at the data it covers approximately 37 cases per quarter.

In reviewing the hand out if you look at page 3 &4, item 2 you will see we met that goal. Kara Lynn highlighted an item on page 2, look at the section for Key Areas and Questions: The complete tool is based around answering the questions in this section. Another section is the Strength Rating, it is important to get this rating, when a case is being reviewed we do not just take the information in the file we also use interviews that are required by the federal government, specifically parents, foster parents, children that are school age and older and also case workers.

The department also has to do an annual report, our annual report and our improvement plan need to be approved in order for them to release money to us.

Kara will be at all of our meetings, please review the hand out and any questions you have, please have them ready for the next meeting.

Kara has shared a link for those wanting to read more about the CFSR.

Children Justice:

Gail Barber reported that the Education Collaborative work groups are still meeting and they gave a presentation at the Children's Justice State Council of their progress. There are two work groups, one is called academic performance looking at increasing success of our kids educationally. The second one is called school participation looking at suspensions and other kinds of discipline, as well as attendance etc. The committees will develop recommendations in a report to the Supreme Court, Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Education (DE) by July 2017.

Iowa received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice grant in October 2014. This two year planning grant will support DHS, Children's Justice (CJ) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) to better serve families in child welfare with substance abuse impairing their ability to parent. Following the planning phase, Iowa would be eligible to apply for a 3 year implementation grant.

George asked what is going on with the Human Trafficking training. Gail reported that the Chief Justice and State Court administrator are working with the Dept. of Public Safety. Children's Justice is waiting to see where they fit in. Gail indicated that flash

drives from the December training have been sent out to those attending the Human Trafficking Training. If you would like one please let Gail know.

Rep. Anderson shared that the Dept. of Public Safety is in the process of setting up an office for Human Trafficking.

Wendy will get the dates and the time line for Human Trafficking training given by DHS.

Update on the DHS budget and Legislative Issues:

- Budget: There is nothing different to report on at this time
- Legislative Issues: There has been an amendment to SF237A, the Midwest Academy bill resends the working on the children's center, the wording in this bill has changed if you are already not a licensed boarding school you are one of the children's residential facilities. The governor asked that the safety health standards for anyone living in a facility. The new requirement for the facilities is as follows:
 1. They need to be certified.
 2. Pass all expectations with the Dept. of Public Health regarding sanitation and safety.
 3. Pass basic Health and safety requirements with the Dept. of Human Services.
 4. Pass all expectations with the Dept. of Education.

The second bill is the endangered children's bill, this bill at the current time hasn't gotten out of either chamber. At the current time the department is working around some language to put together a study group, look at differential response to see if we can put together a definition. Wendy asked everyone read the latest report on Differential Response if you have any questions please send them to Wendy.

George asked what DHS is doing regarding LGBTQ. Wendy shared that a program manager working on it, they have made up a folder of information and they are working on adding this to our training at all levels.

The group discussed the data being circulated by folks on the increase in termination rates.

Wendy clarified that the data being shared is inaccurate and that the increase is somewhat expected because there are fewer families entering the child abuse path which means there are less families on the child abuse side, therefore percentages may increase. Wendy stated this information had been shared with the Grandparent's group at the last meeting with the Director as well.

Public comment:

No public comment

Next meeting:

June 17th 1:00 pm to 3:00 p.m. in the library at the Drake Legal Clinic.

Meeting Adjourn: 2:47 pm